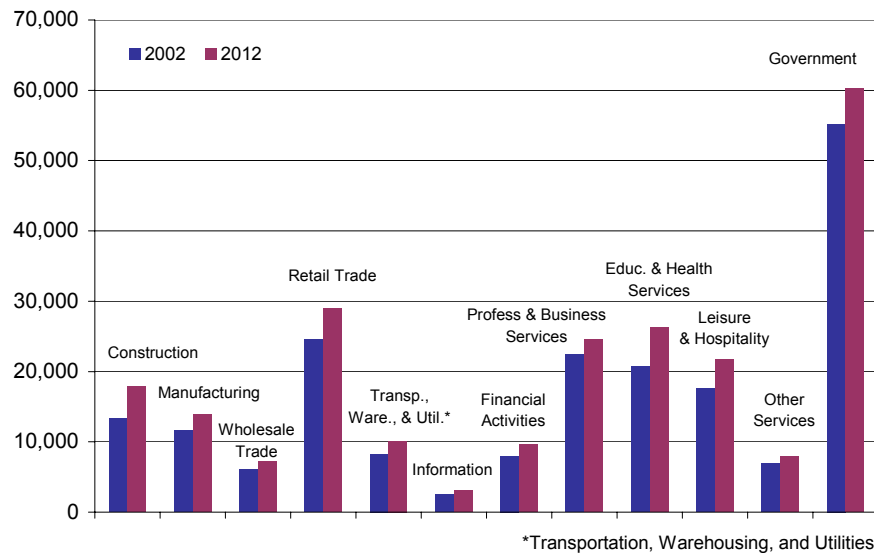


Kern County Projection Highlights

Industry

Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Kern County is expected to grow nearly 2 percent annually between 2002 and 2012. This growth will add almost 35,000 new jobs and bring Kern's employment to about 240,000 by 2012. Over half of all new nonfarm wage and salary jobs are forecasted to occur in Educational and Health Services (16%), Government (14%), Construction (13%), and Retail Trade (13%).

Below is a graph of the estimated 2002 and projected 2012 employment for major industries in Kern County.



Construction is the fastest growing major industry sector, growing at an annual rate of 3.5 percent. Other industries growing faster than the overall county growth rate are Educational and Health Services (2.7%) and Leisure and Hospitality (2.3%).

Occupations

Occupational projections for the period 2002 to 2012 forecast:

- Almost 35,000 new jobs from industry growth,
- About 50,000 job openings from Net Replacements,
- A combined total of approximately 85,000 job openings.

The 50 occupations with the most job openings are expected to generate about 49,000 total job openings, almost 58 percent of all job openings in Kern County during the 2002-2012 period. At the top of the list are various entry-level occupations such as Cashiers, Retail Salespersons, and Waiters and Waitresses, which pay less than \$9 per hour. Higher-skilled occupations requiring an associate degree or higher include Elementary and Middle School Teachers, Registered Nurses, and General Managers.

The 50 fastest growing occupations are all expected to outpace the county's annual growth rate. As a result of the fast growing construction sector, there are a number of construction-related occupations on the list. These occupations require moderate to long-term training and pay \$11-\$20 per hour. Various occupations in the Health and Food Service sectors are also on the list.

Average Annual Job Openings by Education and Training Level

